

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Grindstaff et al. Examiner: Leslie Wong
Serial No. 09/770,031 Group Art Unit: 1761
Filed: January 25, 2001 Docket No. 707.001US1
Title: SHAPED CHEESE RECONSTRUCTION WITH TRANSGLUTAMINASE

RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Box Amendment
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

MAILED

AUG - 8 2002

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on March 26, 2002. A Petition for One-Month Extension of Time and authorization to debit Deposit Account No. 50-1391 accompanies this Amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. A clean copy of the amended claims in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121 appears at the end of this Amendment.

1. (AMENDED) A process for the structuring of a cheese portion comprising:
providing portions of curd or cheese in segments of a first average dimension and having a total surface area,
adding to said segments a composition comprising transglutaminase to at least five percent of said total surface area of said segments, said composition providing a bonding-sufficient amount of transglutaminase to said total surface area,
pressing said portions together, while the bonding-sufficient amount of transglutaminase to said total surface area of the curd or cheese segments is present on the surface of the curd or cheese segments, to eliminate air between said portions while forming a volume of curds or cheese that is larger than [an] a single portion of said portions of curds or cheese,
allowing said transglutaminase to bond said portions of curds or cheese together to form a unit of cheese.

GROUP 1700

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TC 1700

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